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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

1518 Longworth House Office Building
202-225-2871

District offices:
724 Marquette Bank Building
Rochester, Minnesota 55901
507-288-3354

23 E. Wentworth Avenue, Room 202
West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118
612-725-7319

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ACTION
is assigned to
EA

November 12, 1981

The Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our government will soon be reviewing the security of Southeastern Asia with Thailand in the hope that a bilateral defense program can help ensure the peace of that region. The continuing problem of the H'mong and their relocation critically impacts on that peace. Recent stories of the "yellow rain" caused by chemicals originating in the Soviet Union and being spread by the Vietnamese and Laotian governments is still causing the deaths of thousands of H'mong. It is imperative that the United States government impress upon the Thai government this need to permit these agricultural-based tribe people to settle in the sparsely populated areas of Northern Thailand. It is in the best security interest of Thailand to have that region populated and the H'mong agricultural contribution would be an asset to the Thai economy. It is also in the best humanitarian interest of all the H'mong to let them continue to live in the spirit and the manner to which they are accustomed.

Throughout the long period of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, the H'mong were our most reliable and valuable allies. We should not lose this opportunity to, in some small way, pay them back for their contribution to our efforts. The atrocities being perpetrated upon them by the communist governments in Vientiane and Hanoi may not be their last act of man's inhumanity against man, but we should do all we can to make sure that this modern day holocaust is stopped.

From: Arlen Erdahl, Benjamin S. Rosentahl, Millicent Fenwick, Edward J. Derwinski, Olympia J. Snowe, Michael D. Barnes, and others.

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It has long been a communist aim to destabilize Western governments by creating large numbers of refugees and maybe we can both defeat their aim and prove ourselves humanitarian at the same time by opening this opportunity to the H'mong in Thailand.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

ARLEN ERDAHL, M.C.

MILLICENT FENWICK, M.C.

BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL, M.C.

HOWARD WOLPE, M.C.

EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, M.C.

TOM LANTOS, M.C.

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, M.C.

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, M.C.

MICHAEL D. BARNES, M.C.

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BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, M.C.

AE:sms